More flights from Bhubaneswar

912. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to make more flight arrangements from Bhubaneswar Airport to major cities of the country; and

(b) whether Government have any plan for allowing private airlines to operate in Bhubaneswar for the above purpose?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Jet Airways is planning to link Bhubaneswar with a daily flight from Delhi from December, 2001.

Airline operators are free to operate on any route/to connect any place based on their commercial judgement subject, of course, to compliance with the route dispersal guidelines which provide for certain minimum operations in specified category of routes.

Public facilities at Ahmedabad airport

913. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVAITION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any public facilities like water cooler, urinal, latrine in parking places at airports;

(b) if so, the names of the airports together with the cities;

(c) whether these facilities are available in Ahmedabad; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Public Facilities like Toilets, Water Coolers, etc. in the parking places have been provided at international airports at Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata, Trivandrum, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad and Goa and at domestic airports at Agartala, Baroda, Calicut, Coimbatore, Jammu and Lucknow. Urinal and Latrine facilities are' available at Bhubaneswar, Jaipur and Mangalore airports.

Only urinal facility in car parking area is provided at Pune, Udaipur and Varanasi airports.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Aero-Bridge at Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminal, Mumbai (Domestic)

914. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that aero-bridge of Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminal, Mumbai (Domestic) is not working; and

(b) if so, since when and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) One of the two aerobridges presently installed at Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport (Domestic Terminal) is not working since 10.4.2001 as excessive noise was heard from hoisting column and, on investigation, it was noticed that the unusal sound was from ball screw assembly. On the recommendation made by the manufacturer of the equipment the aerobridge has been taken out of operation, pending repair.

Irregularities in upgrading Y to J class in AI

915. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the criterion for upgrading Y class passengers to J class in Air India;

(b) whether it is a fact that AI officials handling first AI flight on 17th September 2001 after September 11, 2001 incident committed gross irregularities in upgrading passengers at New York;

(c) if so, the details thereof giving names of passengers upgraded and the reasons for not upgrading entitled passengers; and

(d) what action Government propose to take against AI officials who were responsible for these irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) The facility of upgrading is a